

END OF GREAT STRUGGLE LOOKS NEARER; ENEMIES IN DEATH GRIP AT BOTH ENDS OF LINE

FRENCH GIVE WAY BUT RESUME OFFENSIVE SOON

Forced to Take Defensive Near Noyon, but Quickly Regain Lost Ground.

NO IMPORTANT CHANGE AT CENTRE.

Germans Bring Reinforcements Into France Over Railways Between Munich, Gladbach and Aix-La-Chapelle.

Paris, Sept. 25, 11.17 p.m.—The official communication issued at eleven o'clock to-night regarding the progress of the battle in Northern France, says that this morning French troops in the region of Noyon were compelled to give ground before superior forces, but having been reinforced, again assumed the offensive, the engagement being of particular violence. The text of the statement follows:—
"On our left wing in the region to the northwest of Noyon our advanced troops having come in contact with superior forces of the enemy were compelled this morning to give a little ground. The struggle in this region has taken on a character of extreme violence. Being reinforced, however, by fresh troops, these troops have vigorously resumed the offensive."
"In the centre there is nothing new to report."
"On our right wing the enemy has begun to give way before the attacks of our troops coming from the direction of Noyon and Toul."
In the southern region of Woerthe the enemy is retiring towards Rupt de Mad (in Meurthe-et-Moselle).
"On the heights of the Meuse the German forces have succeeded in penetrating nearly as far as St. Mihiel (on the right bank of the Meuse, twenty miles south southeast of Verdun), but have not been able to cross the river."
London, Sept. 25, 11.33 p. m.—German troops are being transported into France over the railway line between Munich, Gladbach and Aix-La-Chapelle, according to the Amsterdam correspondent of Reuters' Telegram Company, who says this fact is stated in a telegram from Maastricht.

Duel in Air Over Brussels.
London, Sept. 25, 10.15 p. m.—A duel in the air over Brussels between a Belgian biplane, which was making a reconnaissance, and a German machine which was in pursuit of the biplane, is described briefly by a correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company, who witnessed the contest.
The two machines ascended to a great altitude, and after a swift flight the aviators exchanged shots at short range. Suddenly the German turned turtle and fell, and the Belgian biplane returned towards Antwerp.

London, Sept. 25, 10.35 p. m.—The Central News Agency has received the following despatch from Rome:—
"A message from Berlin says the general staff, having agreed to the complete official lists of prisoners, has found it necessary to admit that the totals already announced were erroneous. The aggregate number of prisoners in German hands is now reduced from 250,000 to 50,000, of which 20,000 are Russians."

U. S. GOV'T UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH MEXICAN CAPITAL

Washington, Sept. 25.—Brigadier General Bliss, commanding the border forces, telegraphed the war department today that all telegraph wires had been cut south of Laredo, Eagle Pass and Juarez.
Withdrawal of American forces from Vera Cruz now may be delayed indefinitely because State Department officials have no means of communication with Mexico City to continue diplomatic correspondence regarding the transfer of the Vera Cruz customs house.

OFFICERS OF BRITISH SHIP SUNK BY GERMAN SUBMARINES IN NORTH SEA.



The above illustration shows the officers of H. M. S. Aboukir, which was sunk with two other British ships in the North Sea. Many of the officers in this group have no doubt been changed since this photograph was taken.

STATEMENT ABOUT SINKING OF THREE CRUISERS GIVEN OUT BY THE ADMIRALTY

No Measures to Save Life Should be Taken at Expense of Military Situation, Admiralty Declares—Natural Promptings of Humanity Led to Losses Which Could Have Been Averted by Adhering to Military Considerations—Loss of Ships of Small Importance from Naval Viewpoint.

London, Sept. 25.—The facts concerning the sinking of the British cruisers Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy by a German submarine, in the North Sea, with a loss of nearly sixty officers and 1,400 men, are contained in an Admiralty statement issued to-night.
The reports of Commander Nicholson of the Cressy, and Norton, of the Hogue, state that the Aboukir was hit by one torpedo and sunk in thirty-five minutes. These torpedoes were fired at the Cressy, one of the explosives missing narrowly. She lasted for thirty-five to forty-five minutes. The Hogue was struck twice, ten to twenty seconds elapsed between the torpedoes, and went under in five minutes.
The Cressy fired on the submarine and some of the officers were confident that the shots sank her. Commander Nicholson says that the three torpedoes directed against his ship might have been fired by the same submarine, and that there is no real proof that more than one was engaged.
The reports show that the greatest discipline was maintained and that acts of heroism were performed, but that such affairs must be governed by the same laws as prevail in naval action, and that disabled ships must be left to their own resources rather than that other ships should be jeopardized by rescue work.
The Admiralty issued the following statement concerning the sinking of the three British cruisers by German submarines in the North Sea.
"The facts of this affair cannot be better conveyed to the public than by the attached reports of the senior officers who have survived and landed in England."
"The sinking of the Aboukir, was of course, an ordinary hazard of patrolling duty. The Hogue and the Cressy, however, were sunk because they proceeded to the assistance of their consort and remained with engines stopped, endeavoring to save life, thus presenting an easy and certain target to further submarine attacks."
"The natural promptings of humanity have in this case led to heavy losses which would have been averted by strict adherence to military considerations. Modern naval war is presenting us with so many new and strange situations that an error of judgment of this character is pardonable. But it has been necessary to point out to the further guidance of His Majesty's ships that conditions which prevail when a vessel of a disabled ship is injured in a mine field, or is exposed to submarine attack, are analogous to those which were in action, and that the rule of leaving disabled ships to their own resources is applicable, so far, at any rate, as large ships are concerned."
"No act of humanity, whether to friend or foe should lead to neglect of the proper precautions and dis-

ASQUITH GETS FINE RECEPTION IN IRELAND

"We Are Not Going to Fail," He Says, in Appeal to Ireland—Nationalists Form Guard of Honor.

Dublin, via London, Sept. 25 (11.30 p.m.)—Premier Asquith appeared at the Mansion House here tonight for the purpose as he expressed it in the opening of his speech, "as head of the King's Government to summon loyal and patriotic Ireland to take her place in defence of our common cause."
The prime minister received a tremendous welcome when he appeared at the Mansion Hall, with John E. Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, and the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and his opening words aroused the greatest enthusiasm. He went on to say that there had been wars with regard to which there was a diversity of opinion, but that that was not the case today.
Today, he declared, throughout the empire, without distinction of creed, party or race, climate or class or sect, the people were united in defending the principle of maintaining interests which were vital, not only to the British empire but to all that was worth having in our common civilization and the future progress of man."
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DOUBLE HANGING IN ALBERTA

Two Russians Pay Penalty for Murder of Paymaster of Cement Works.

MacLeod, Alberta, Sept. 25.—Promptly at seven o'clock this morning, A. Fanev Sokoloff and Joseph Smith, two Calgary Russians, paid the full penalty of their crime for the murder of Paymaster Wilson, of Esplanade cement works.
They walked with a firm step to the scaffold unassisted. On reaching the scaffold Sokoloff said: "Cannot you postpone execution, I did not do it."
But on being informed that the proceedings could not be stopped he said: "Good bye, Smith."
The black cap was adjusted and within two minutes after mounting the scaffold the lever was pulled. In both cases death was instantaneous.

OTTAWA VIEWS AUTOMOBILE BATTERY

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Sept. 25.—The automobile battery entrained for Ottawa this afternoon after motoring in from Rock life and parading through the centre of the city where they were viewed by large crowds of people and given an enthusiastic farewell. The battery passed swiftly through the streets and the impression made was one of deadly efficiency rather than of showy display.
The one hundred and twenty-three men under Major Brutnell all seem to be well selected and the armored trucks with the machine guns mounted on them, the ammunition wagons, the truck carrying the steel gasoline barrels, and the ambulance car had a distinctly warlike appearance.
The equipment for the battery was provided by Hon. Clifford Sifton, Sir Henry Egab, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Messrs. J. R. Booth, T. Ahern, W. N. Soper and others.
The machine guns fire 400 shots per minute and the trucks on which they are mounted are armored with heavy steel plates. There are several motor cars for the officers and a dozen bicycles for the scouts.

FORTY THOUSAND GERMANS ENCAPMED NEAR WATERLOO

London, Sept. 25 (2.10 p.m.)—The Ostend correspondent of Reuters' Telegram Company sends the following despatch:—
"Forty thousand Germans have been encamped in the environs of Waterloo since Saturday, headquarters being established at Ruybroeck. All passports to Mons are being refused by the German authorities at Brussels, the object apparently being to prevent travellers seeing the great amount of army transports which has already returned there from France."
"The Germans have installed heavy siege guns at Grimbergen and Moxesse. To prevent the inhabitants of these places from reporting the fact, the men have all been shut up in a church and the women have been sent to Brussels."
"As a consequence of the exhaustion of supplies in some classes of provisions the German governor of Brussels has consented to Burgomaster Max going to Antwerp with the object of securing the consent of the Belgian government for the despatch of grain and cattle to re-provision the city. The understanding is that these provisions will not be requisitioned by the Germans."

TWO HAMMER STROKES FALL ALMOST AT SAME TIME; VIOLENT FIGHTING

Fighting Develops Into Two Distinct Battles --- Allies Strike The Right Wing of Enemy and at Other End of Line Germans Hurl Themselves Against French Army Between Verdun and Toul --- Germans Gain Footing on Muse Heights --- French Still Masters of Situation to South of Verdun --- Definite Result in Titanic Struggle Will Likely be Decided in Short Time Now.

London, Sept. 25, 9.50 p. m. — Almost simultaneously the two great hammer strokes in the battle in Northern France have fallen and some decisive result must before long be announced. The allies have struck the German right wing, and the Germans, on their part, have hurled themselves against the French line between Verdun and Toul. Should either stroke be driven home the battle will be decided.
The commencement of these two attacks in earnest was disclosed by the French official statement issued this afternoon, but little is told of how they are progressing. The action against the German right is described as a very violent general one, in which the French left encountered an army corps composed of troops which the Germans brought from the centre of Lorraine and the Vosges.

The clash occurred in the district between Tergnier and St. Quentin, so that the French have made a considerable advance to the northwest since the last mention was made of this part of their army. The country is a rolling one, intersected by streams, canals and a perfect network of roads running in all directions.
Germans Make a Gain
The French report admits that the Germans have succeeded in gaining a footing on the Muse heights and have pushed forward in the direction of St. Mihiel, bombarding the forts of Pavoche and the Roman camp, which face each other across the Meuse. The communication, however, adds that on the other hand, to the south of Verdun the French remain masters of the heights on the Meuse and that their troops, debouching from Toul, have advanced in the region of Beaurmont.
In the centre, to the east of Rheims, the French have made some progress, but elsewhere nothing of importance has happened so far as is shown in the official reports, and no other information is available, as the strictest censorship has now been established.
Some confirmation comes today of yesterday's report that the Germans have suffered a reverse on the East Prussian frontier.
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ONTARIO'S PREMIER PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY

End Came Suddenly—Man of Rare Ability and Striking Personality—Had Brilliant Record in Public Life of Dominion and Was One of Most Capable Leaders of Conservative Party.

Toronto, Sept. 25.—Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, died suddenly at 12 o'clock today, at his home, Lady Whitney and Miss Whitney were the only persons at the bedside.
Dr. Herbert J. Hamilton had been hurriedly called, but when he arrived the premier had passed away.
Sir James' death was due to cerebral hemorrhage, caused by hardening of the arteries. He had been confined to his home through illness since August 1st. Since that time he had spent days in bed, while on different occasions he was able to sit up.
(Sir James Whitney was a native of Ontario, and was 71 years of age. A lawyer, he was first elected to the legislature in 1886, became leader of the opposition in 1896 and when the Liberals were defeated in 1905 he came premier and attorney general. Sir James was a man of ability and a tower of strength to his party. He was a member of the Church of England, and leaves a wife and three children. For some time he has been suffering from heart disease.
The death of Sir James will not for the present alter the existing personnel of the provincial administration. Lt. Gov. Sir John Gibson has requested the cabinet to continue, and Hon. H. A. Payne, Minister of Education, who has been acting premier during the late premier's illness, and who, in the absence of Hon. J. J. Poy, who is indisposed, is senior member of the cabinet, will continue to act in that capacity for a time.
The funeral arrangements, so far as completed tonight, will include a lying-in-state in the Legislative Assembly chamber on Monday next.
On Tuesday morning at nine o'clock a special service will be held in St. James' Cathedral, where Sir James was a frequent worshipper, and at 10 o'clock a special train will convey the remains to Morrisburg, and interment will take place in the family plot in the cemetery adjoining the Whitney memorial church.
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PERMANENT OFFICERS FOR BRIGADES OF FIRST CONTINGENT NAMED

Special to The Standard.
Valcarlos, Sept. 25.—The permanent officers commanding the brigades composing the first contingent have been appointed. The infantry brigades will be commanded by Lt. Col. R. E. W. Turner, D. S. O., V. C., commander of the 13th Scottish Light Dragoons of Sherbrooke, P. Q.; Lt. Col. S. M. Mercer, commander of the 2nd regiment, Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto; Lt. Col. A. W. Curry, commander of the 50th regiment Victoria, B. C.; Lt. Col. J. E. Colton, commander of the 6th infantry brigade, Niagara Falls.
The artillery brigade will be commanded by Lt. Col. H. E. Burstall, commander of the Royal Canadian Artillery; Lt. Col. A. C. Macdonnell, London, will command the Strathcona Horse and Lt. Col. C. M. Nelles will command the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Col. Nelles is an officer of the R. C. Dragoons at Toronto and has also been inspector of cavalry.